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Storm in Heaven
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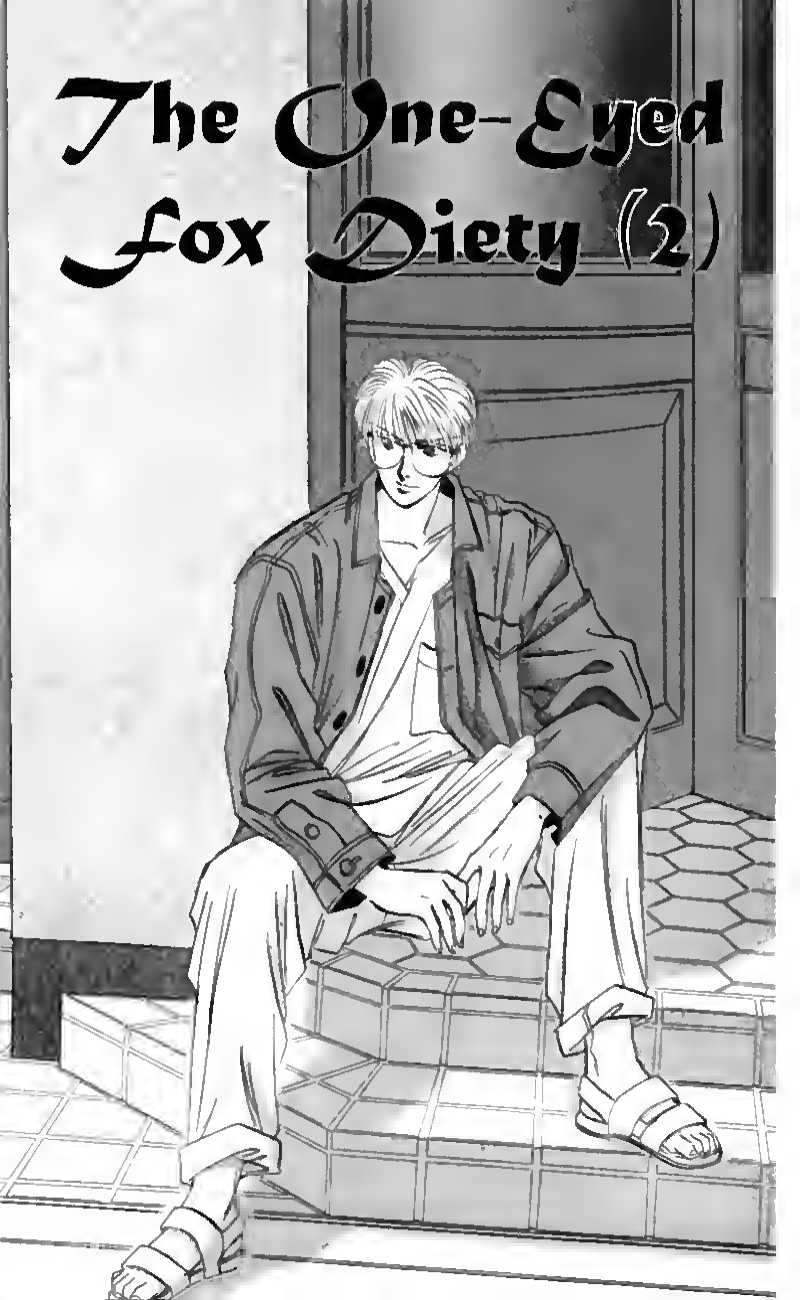
The One-Eyed Fox Diety (2)



KURAKI-KUN!!
SFX: SHRIEK

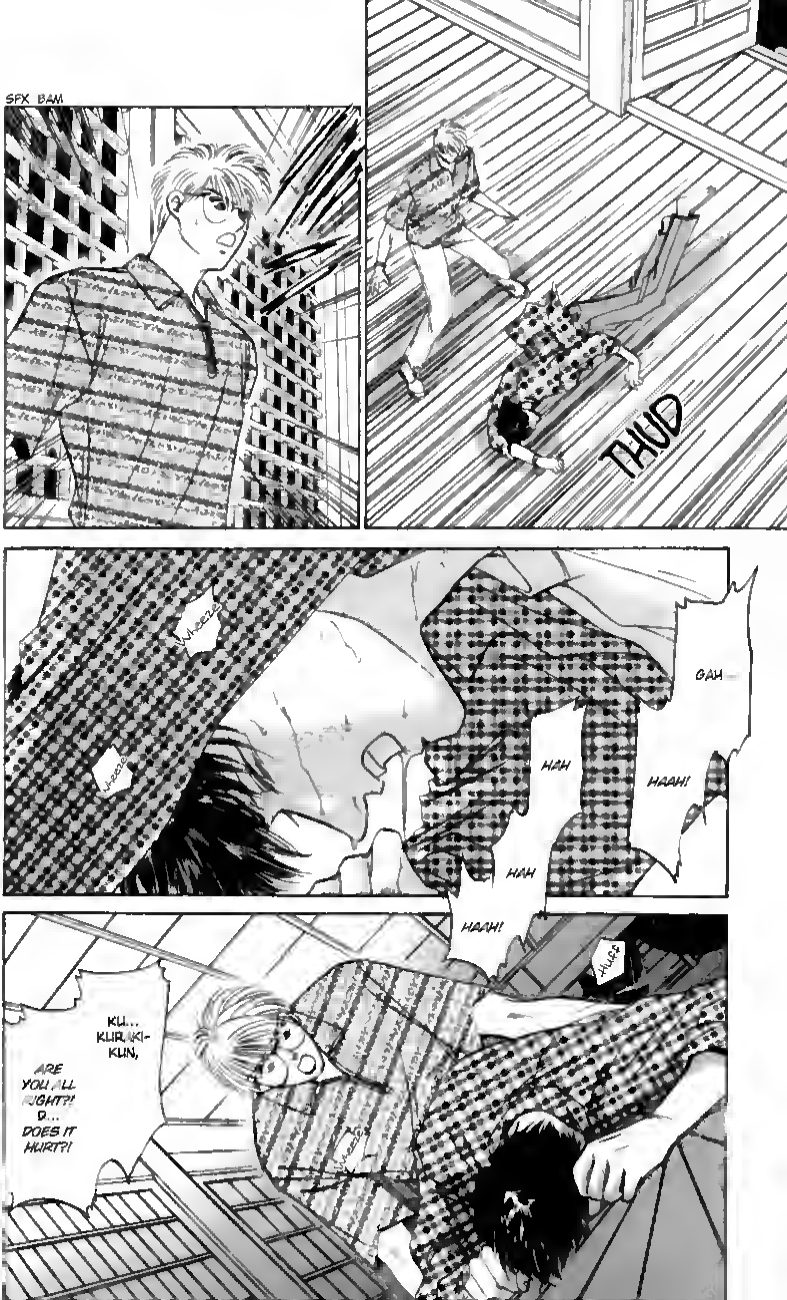
WHOAH!
JERK
GRAB
HUH?
SFX: SSSH
SWISH
SPLASH
WAH...

BY THIS HOLY WATER...
RETREAT, EVIL GHOST!!
SFX: SLOSH
sssss
sssss

RUN!!
TO THE MAIN SHRINE!!
HURRY !!
DON'T LOOK BACK!!
KURAKI-KUN!!

SFX SCREECH
SFX WHAM
HAH!

SFX: WHOOM


SFX BAM
THUD
GAH
HAH
HAAH!
HAH
HAAH!
AHHH
KU... KUR, IKI-KUN,
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?! D... DOES IT HURT?!

YOU CAST A PROTECTIVE CIRCLE AROUND THE MAIN SHRINE...?!
WITHOUT EVEN A HOLY SWORD...
THIS IS UNBELIEV-ABLE...!!
YEAH!
BECAUSE I LENT YOU "KAGU-TSUCHI"!!
HUFF
THAT YOU CAN CAST A SPELL WITHOUT SUMMONING "ENERGY" OR HAVING A HOLY SWORD?
WHAT... I MEAN, WHO ON EARTH ARE YOU...
CRAP... YOU FORCED ME TO OVERTAX MYSELF!!

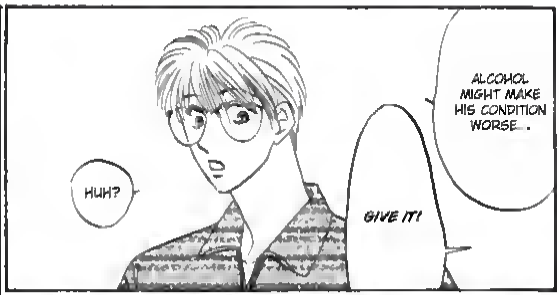
KURAKI-KUN.
STOP BOTHERING ME WITH YOUR CRAP!
I'M NOT IN THE MOOD FOR YOUR BABBLE!
THAT'S TOTALLY BEYOND HUMAN POWERS...
I'M AN ORDINARY SHAMAN!!
LOOK AT ME, I'M JUST AN EXHAUSTED GUY!
KU—KURAKI-KUN, DO YOU WANT SOME WATER?
HE REALLY LOOKS PALE
IS CASTING A PROTECTIVE CIRCLE THAT EXHAUSTING?
BUT... THIS SHOULD HOLD FOR A WHILE.
ONCE MORNING COMES, I CAN DISSOLVE THIS "VESSEL", TOO.
EXCUSE ME,
DO YOU HAVE ANY WATER?
WATER ..?
I ONLY HAVE SACRED ALCOHOL

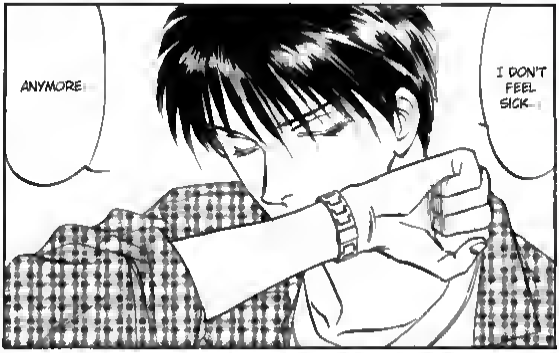
FREE TALK 〈4〉

まあ「獣王星」の場合、約200Pを3か月にわけて描くという無茶な事やっとりますので、トーンをはる時間がない〃というのも本音だったりするわけですが。

このトーンというのも何といいますか麻薬に近い物がありまして、凝りだすとキリがありません。ここまで！というラインは作家自身が決める事ですので「トーンはりたい中毒」から脱するのは中々難しいです。

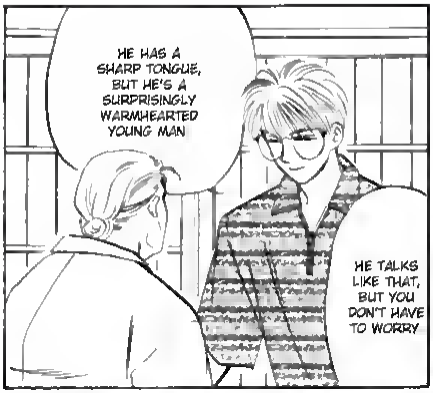
今んとこ私はそのラインを決めかねてウロウロしておりますが、「獣王星」の場合、中毒全開！しても全然OKのネタなのでかえって楽です。(アシスタントさんは泣いてるけど) 本当はもっともっとはりたいのよー。2重3重とかにしてけずったりして〜わあ病気だあ。

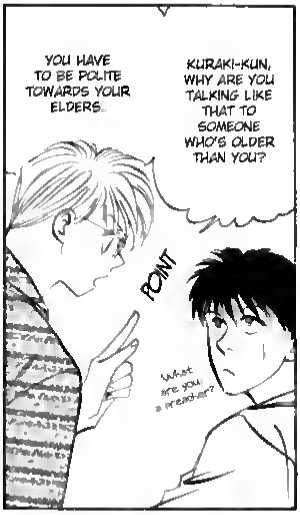




WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?
LET'S SEE...
IT'S THREE A.M. SHARP.
IT'S AROUND TWO HOURS UNTIL DAWN, HUH?
MY STRENGTH WILL HAVE RECOVERED BY THEN, TOO.
AND THIS "VESSEL" WILL ALSO BE CLEARED...
BUT, I DON'T KNOW...
I HAVE A FEELING THAT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE
HUH? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THE EVIL GHOST FROM OUTSIDE...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE SOMETHING CAUSED BY THE "DAY OF RECKONING" OF THE HOLY SWORD AT ALL

I'M NOT SURE,
THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT THE RESIDUAL SPIRITUAL POWERS OF "TAKEMIKAZUCHI" ARE BEING USED HERE
BUT IT'S REALLY FRESH...
I WONDER IF THAT FOX CREATURE ISN'T CONTROLLED BY SOMEONE ELSE...
BUT...
SOMEONE ELSE...?
SO,
NO, I'M SURE THAT EVIL GHOST FEELS THE "ENERGY" OF "TAKEMIKAZUCHI".
THE EVIL SPIRITS AREN'T GATHERING HERE BECAUSE IT'S A "VESSEL"?
IF IT DOESN'T HOLD UNTIL MORNING, THE TWO OF US WILL BE IN DANGER, TOO.
THIS ISN'T JUST YOUR PROBLEM ANYMORE
AM I SAVED ?
WILL IT HOLD UNTIL MORNING?
EXCUSE ME


HE HAS A SHARP TONGUE, BUT HE'S A SURPRISINGLY WARMHEARTED YOUNG MAN
HE TALKS LIKE THAT, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY


KURAKI-KUN, WHY ARE YOU TALKING LIKE THAT TO SOMEONE WHO'S OLDER THAN YOU?
YOU HAVE TO BE POLITE TOWARDS YOUR ELDERS...
POINT
What are you a preacher?

WHO ARE YOU CALLING WARM-HEARTED?
WHAT?

ARE YOU... A MESSENGER OF THE HOLY SWORD, TOO...?!
YOU HAVE THE SAME AURA...

ARE YOU...

HM?

NO,
THAT'S NOT RIGHT.
HOW...
PECULIAR...!!
YOUR AURAS ARE ALIKE,
BUT IF YOU OVERLAP THEM,
THEY LOOK TOTALLY DIFFERENT.

IT WAS BAD LUCK THAT "TAKEMIKAZUCHI" FELL INTO THE HANDS OF A SHRINE PRIEST-ESS LIKE HER.
SHE CAN SEE A FEW THINGS, BUT THAT'S ALL
THIS OLD LADY IS WHAT YOU'D CALL A LOW GRADE SHRINE PRIESTESS.
YOU DON'T HAVE TO TAKE HER SERIOUSLY
HA...
IS... IS THAT SO?

ONCE MORNING COMES, SHE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ANYMORE, RIGHT?
BUT..
THAT THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED FIFTY YEARS AGO WOULD HAPPEN AGAIN.
I BET SHE WAS AFRAID ALL THIS TIME...
THE POOR THING...

I KNEW IT!
AB-NORMAL!
Thinks that it's strange.
Well you see, even a native Tokyoite like myself
I WAS TALKING ABOUT THE HUGE AMOUNT OF "EVIL ENERGY"!
THIS PLACE WAS ABNORMAL.
I KNEW THE MINUTE I CAME TO TOKYO. .
BESIDES
THAT EVEN FOR A LARGE CITY,
HAVING AT LEAST ONE "VESSEL" LESS WILL BE A GOOD THING

IT SEEMS THAT ALL OF THE EVIL GHOSTS HAVE SUDDENLY TRANSFORMED INTO "EVIL ENERGY".
WHEN I WAS HERE FIVE YEARS AGO, IT WASN'T LIKE THIS

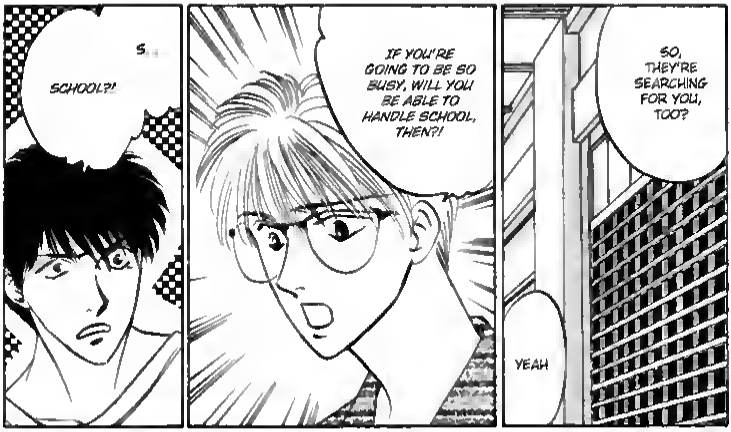
IT'S REALLY STRANGE
THIS ISN'T NATURAL.
SO YOU'RE SAYING...
THAT SOMEONE IS TURNING TOKYO INTO THIS?!
YEAH
COME TO THINK OF IT...
THE "EVIL ENERGY" AT THE "ALLEY OF THE YOUNG PRINCE" THE OTHER DAY WAS GROWING ALL OF A SUDDEN, TOO
CAN THAT BE DONE?!
IF A POWERFUL MEDIUM...
CONCENTRATED ALL THEIR ENERGY ON IT, IT'D TAKE DECADES
AND AN EXPERT ALONE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH
BUT...
IF THEY WERE WILLING TO SHORTEN THEIR LIVES,
IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE

FREE TALK 〈5〉

さーてハッと気付くと早くも「八雲立つ」も3冊目ですが、また主要人物が全員出てきとりません。大体4巻目あたりで出てくるんじゃないかなーと考えとりますが。どうもやりたいネタがいっぱいあって寄り道が多くなって困りますね。この話は。

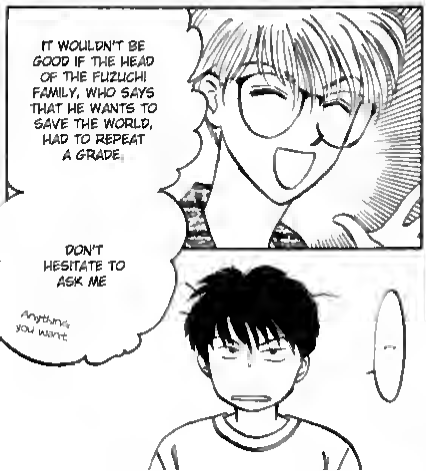
3巻目にして何となく自己と七地の性格もつかめて参りましたので、お話の方も作りやすくなってきました。作者が自分の作ったキャラの性格がわからんとは!?と思われるでしょ。でもねー自分で動くようになってくれないとわからんもんなんですよー。変だけどホントなの。しかも3巻目でつかむなんて私にしては早いペースだったりして。

ではではまた、
4巻で！


S...
SCHOOL?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE SO BUSY, WILL YOU BE ABLE TO HANDLE SCHOOL, THEN?!
SO, THEY'RE SEARCHING FOR YOU, TOO?
YEAH

WHAT?
BUT YOU KNOW,
Does so-and-so carry the same weight?
...WELL, I... WAS JUST TALKING ABOUT THE FATE OF THE WORLD, YOU KNOW...

YOU WON'T HAVE TIME TO STUDY, WILL YOU!?
THAT'S RIGHT! HOW ABOUT I TEACH YOU!?


IT WOULDN'T BE GOOD IF THE HEAD OF THE FUZUICHI FAMILY, WHO SAYS THAT HE WANTS TO SAVE THE WORLD, HAD TO REPEAT A GRADE.
DON'T HESITATE TO ASK ME
Anything you want
...

It was sacred after all
YOU LOOK MUCH BETTER NOW.
DID THAT ALCOHOL HELP THAT MUCH?
HUH?
I... GIVE UP.
SLUMP
TALKING TO YOU SOMEHOW MAKES EVERYTHING SEEM SO SIMPLE.
HUH?
NOW THAT HE MENTIONS IT
AND EARLIER I WAS WONDERING IF I'D BE ABLE TO MOVE AT ALL IN THE MORNING.
I ONLY DRANK A LITTLE
THIS IS WEIRD.
IT...
MUTTER
MUTTER
THIS IS HOPE-LESS...
WILL NEVER HOLD... UNTIL MORNING ...
BUT...
THE OLD LADY IS GLOOMY.

BUT HE IS NO MORE!!
BEFORE, WHEN IT WAS HAPPENING ONCE EVERY YEAR, MY HUSBAND WAS THERE FOR ME!
IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE "IT" APPEARED ...!!
NO... NO!!
KURAKI-KUN IS HERE FOR YOU, TOO. .
YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY SO MUCH
CUT
THAT'S NOT A PRO...
HUH ...?
I'M DONE FOR!!
I...
IT'S EXACTLY ONE YEAR TODAY...!!

WHA...
WHAT'S THIS?!

SFX SSSH

DAMN IT!
IT WASN'T ENOUGH!!
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!!
HUH?
...I SEE...

YOU TWO, GET OVER HERE!!
KU... KURAKI-KUN, WHAT IS THIS...?

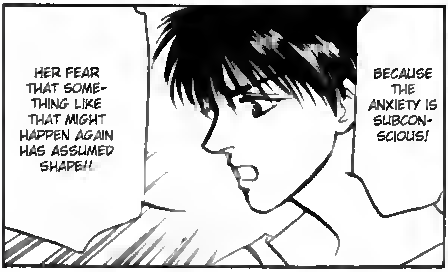
SPK. CRACKLE
UWAH?!
EEK!

COME ON!!
SLAM
NOBODY BREAKS THROUGH MY PROTECTIVE CIRCLES!!
THIS THING
Pah!
MY ASS!
WAS THE PROTEC-TIVE CIRCLE..
BROKEN?!

...CAME FROM INSIDE!!
SFX: WHOO
SWISH
KUTAKI-KUN!

GRR
WHACK
TAP
THIS CRAP IS ALL YOUR DOING!!
CLARE
OPEN YOUR EYES, OLD HAG!!

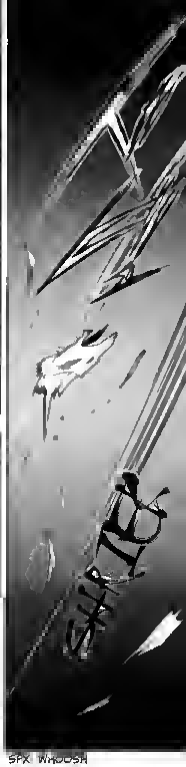
SO THERE'S NO POINT IN MY CASTING A PROTECTIVE CIRCLE ON THE OUTSIDE AT ALL!
THIS IS YOUR "ANXIETY", THE FEAR OF THE WOMAN WHO BORROWED THE RESIDUAL SPIRITUAL POWERS OF "TAKEMIKA-ZUCHI"!!
YOU'RE JUST REPEATING THE SAME THING THAT HAPPENED FIFTY YEARS AGO!!


HER FEAR THAT SOME-THING LIKE THAT MIGHT HAPPEN AGAIN HAS ASSUMED SHAPE!!
BECAUSE THE ANXIETY IS SUBCON-SCIOUS!

BU... BUT WHY WOULD SHE ATTACK HERSELF?!

WHAT SHOULD I DO ..?
I— I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT THAT!!
B— BUT EVEN IF YOU SAY SO,

KUIRAKI-KUN, UP THERE!!
GULP
GULP
TAKE COVER!!
SFX: SLASH
SFX: WHACK



SFX. WHOOSH

SFX. WHACK

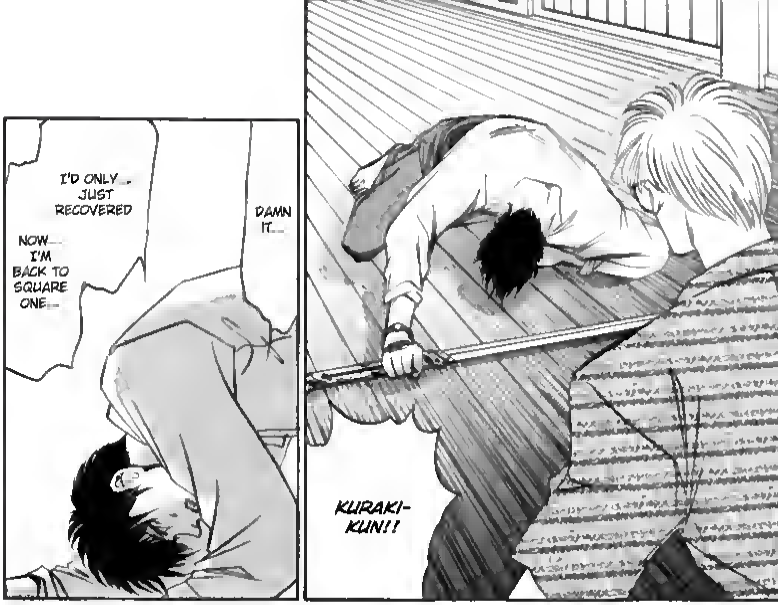
LET'S LEAVE THIS SHRINE... THIS "VESSEL"!
IN THAT CASE
IT'S SINK OR SWIM!!
...BLAZE THE TRAIL?
THAT'S EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.
WE HAVE TO FORCE OUR WAY OUT!
I'LL CARRY THE OLD LADY, AND YOU'LL BLAZE THE TRAIL FOR US!
LEAVE...? HOW?
IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING
BUT, AUNTIE,
I... WON'T LEAVE THIS PLACE!
IF I DO, IT'LL K... KILL ME!
N... NO!!
ST... STAY AWAY FROM ME!
I... I DON'T WANT TO!

SFX WHACK

SFX ZOOM

SFX SLITHER

KURAKI-KU...
STAY BACK!!
GRAB
WHO
OSH


I'D ONLY JUST RECOVERED
DAMN IT...
NOW... I'M BACK TO SQUARE ONE...
KURAKI-KUN!!

IMPOS-SIBLE NOW... FOR ME TO CLEAR A PATH FOR US!!

WE CAN'T DO ANYTHING ...!
BECAUSE THE "CULPRIT" ISN'T AWARE OF HER ACTIONS, I GUESS.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO...?

THAT TOOK A GREAT DEAL OF MY VITAL FORCE, JUST NOW.
AND THAT... WAS A FATAL BLOW, TOO...!
IT... IT'S...

NANA-CHI...!
THE CULPRIT ...
STEP BACK.
THE EVIL GHOST ....
HAS REFORMED
IT'S COMING ...!!
Y... YOU CAN'T, NOT NOW!
IN YOUR CONDI-TION
EVEN SO,
I HAVE TO TRY IT...!
KURAKI-KUN...!!
AUNTY, PLEASE!
STOP IT AND PUT AN END TO THIS ALREADY!!
I... I DIDN'T ... DO...

WHY WON'T YOU TRUST US?!
WHAT ARE YOU AFRAID OF?
YOU'RE JUST SCARED!!
I KNOW!

BUT HE STAYED TO RESCUE YOU AND I!!
WHY DO YOU THINK HE REMAINED HERE?!
IT'D HAVE BEEN EASY FOR HIM TO ESCAPE ON HIS OWN!!

THAT'S RIGHT!!
HE CAME HERE TO SAVE YOU!!
RESCUE ME...
I'LL MAINTAIN IT THROUGH SHEER WILL IF I HAVE TO!!
NANACHI!! LEAVE HER BE AND SHUT UP ALREADY!

SFX: SHH
DON'T PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT HAPPENS OUTSIDE!
LOOK AT ME!!
DO I LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO WOULD LIE TO YOU?!
THEY AREN'T THAT CRUEL!!
THE HOLY SWORDS WOULD NEVER TORMENT ANYONE LIKE THIS!!
I...
I WAS JUST SO SCARED...
MY SIN WAS SO GRAVE
EVERYONE MAKES MISTAKES!
YOU'VE SUFFERED ENOUGH!!

I WANTED TO MAKE THE POWERS OF THE HOLY SWORD MINE.
I WAS ALL ALONE, AND I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.
THE COUNTRY WAS DEFEATED, LIFE WAS HARD AND I'D DEPENDED ON MY FATHER. BUT HE WAS GONE.
IN ALL THESE FIFTY YEARS...
I'VE NEVER HAD A DAY WHERE I COULD BE AT EASE...
PLEASE...
THE INVALUABLE HOLY SWORD WAS ONLY A "THING" TO ME
...A SHRINE PRIESTESS, WHO SHOULD SEE SOULS IN ALL THINGS...!
IT'S NO WONDER THAT IT WAS FURIOUS...
FORGIVE ME.
WE'RE GOING TO SAVE YOU.
IT'S ALL RIGHT...

THE HOLY SWORD HAS LONG SINCE FORGIVEN YOU. DON'T YOU THINK?
NOBODY BLAMES YOU.
SO... YOU DON'T HAVE TO CRY ANYMORE.
THESE FIFTY YEARS
HAVE BEEN HARD, HAVEN'T THEY?

SFX: FWSSH
IT...
IS OVER
NOW.

TAKE A REST, KURAKI-KUN.
I'LL STAY WITH HER LIKE THIS UNTIL MORNING.
HUH...?
THE EVIL GHOST... VANISHED...!!
I'M SURE...
IT'S ALL RIGHT NOW
YOU DO UNBELIEVABLE THINGS SOMETIMES
...YOU...

HEAR MY VOICE... AND ANSWER ME!
APPROACH ME...
ENERGY THAT DWELLS IN THE ARABAKI SHRINE
OH, GREAT "ENERGY"
YOUR POWER!!
AND LEND ME...

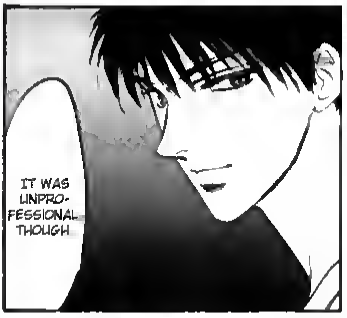
OH...!! THE "ENERGY" IS HERE...!!
THAT I'M ABLE TO SEE SOMEONE WHO MASTERS THE HOLY SWORD WITH MY OWN EYES.!!
THE SHAPE OF THE REMAINS...
SHOW ME
OF THE HOLY SWORD "TAKEMIKAZUCHI"...!!
DO
OF

THAT I CAN WITNESS SUCH A SPECTACLE...
IT'S A SWORD THAT SOMEONE LIKE MYSELF COULDN'T HANDLE...
THAT IS "TAKEMIKAZUCHI". AMAZING...
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL SWORD...
AND A HANDSOME SHRINE PRIEST...
OH, GREAT "TAKEMIKAZUCHI"... COUNT ON ME.
I WILL NOT REST
UNTIL I FINALLY FIND YOU

SFX: FWSSH
NOW RETURN TO YOUR TRUE FORM...!!
NOW,
THERE ISN'T ANYTHING I HAVE TO LOOK BACK ON WITH REGRET.
YOU KNOW, SOME-HOW,
SHE'S TURNED COMPLETELY BUDDHA-LIKE OVERNIGHT.
The relics is different though.

THAT FOX SHAPE—
WAS CREATED BY HER BELIEF, TOO, WASN'T IT?

I'M REALLY HAPPY FOR HER
APPARENTLY SHE WAS SCARED ALL THIS TIME THAT SHE'D BE KILLED AFTER ONE YEAR, TOO.
NO WONDER SHE'D TURN INTO A SAINT.
SHE'S FINALLY BEEN RELIEVED OF A FIFTY YEAR OLD FEAR.
BUT THAT ASIDE, HUMAN FAITH IS AMAZING, HUH?


IT WAS UNPRO-FESSIONAL THOUGH.

FORGET IT.
MAYBE I SHOULD TAKE LESSONS?
BECAUSE YOU KNOW, IF I DRAG YOU DOWN LIKE THIS
It's embarrassing.
You didn't have to answer that fast.

HUH?
I WAS WONDERING IF I HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A SHAMAN, TOO.
WELL

HE DOESN'T REALIZE IT, I GUESS

ISN'T DRAGGING ME DOWN AT ALL

The One-Eyed Fox Deity - End